

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish a Government Spending Oversight Committee within the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Government Spending
5 Oversight Act of 2024".

6 **SEC. 2. GOVERNMENT SPENDING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 424 of title 5, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

1 “(f) GOVERNMENT SPENDING OVERSIGHT COM-
2 MITTEE.—

3 “(1) DEFINITIONS.— In this subsection:

4 “(A) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the
5 meaning given the term in section 551 of this
6 title.

7 “(B) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
8 MITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional
9 committees’ means—

10 “(i) the Committees on Appropria-
11 tions of the Senate and the House of Rep-
12 resentatives;

13 “(ii) the Committee on Homeland Se-
14 curity and Governmental Affairs of the
15 Senate;

16 “(iii) the Committee on Oversight and
17 Accountability of the House of Representa-
18 tives; and

19 “(iv) any other relevant congressional
20 committee of jurisdiction.

21 “(C) CHAIRPERSON.—The term ‘Chair-
22 person’ means the Chairperson of the Com-
23 mittee.

1 “(D) COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Committee’
2 means the Government Spending Oversight
3 Committee established under paragraph (2).

4 “(E) COVERED FUNDS.—The term ‘cov-
5 ered funds’ means any funds, including loans,
6 that are made available in any form to any non-
7 Federal entity or individual, under—

8 “(i) division A or B of the CARES
9 Act (Public Law 116–136);

10 “(ii) the Coronavirus Preparedness
11 and Response Supplemental Appropria-
12 tions Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–123);

13 “(iii) the Families First Coronavirus
14 Response Act (Public Law 116–127);

15 “(iv) the Paycheck Protection Pro-
16 gram and Health Care Enhancement Act
17 (Public Law 116–139);

18 “(v) division M or N of the Consoli-
19 dated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public
20 Law 116–260);

21 “(vi) the American Rescue Plan Act
22 of 2021 (Public Law 117–2);

23 “(vii) any loan guaranteed or made by
24 the Small Business Administration, includ-
25 ing any direct loan or guarantee of a trust

1 certificate, under the Small Business Act
2 (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.), the Small Busi-
3 ness Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C.
4 661 et seq.), or any other provision of law;

5 “(viii) unemployment compensation,
6 as defined in section 85 of the Internal
7 Revenue Code of 1986;

8 “(ix) the Infrastructure Investment
9 and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58);

10 “(x) the Inflation Reduction Act
11 (Public Law 117–169);

12 “(xi) the Honoring our PACT Act of
13 2022 (Public Law 117–168); or

14 “(xii) the CHIPS Act of 2022 (divi-
15 sion A of Public Law 117–167) (commonly
16 known as the ‘CHIPS and Science Act of
17 2022’).

18 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
19 within the Council the Government Spending Over-
20 sight Committee to promote transparency and con-
21 duct and support oversight of covered funds to—

22 “(A) prevent and detect fraud, waste,
23 abuse, and mismanagement; and

24 “(B) mitigate major risks that cut across
25 program and agency boundaries.

1 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
2 Committee—

3 “(A) shall be selected by the Chairperson
4 of the Council from among Inspectors General
5 appointed by the President and confirmed by
6 the Senate; and

7 “(B) should have with experience man-
8 aging oversight of large organizations and ex-
9 penditures.

10 “(4) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the Com-
11 mittee shall include—

12 “(A) the Chairperson;

13 “(B) the Inspector General of the Depart-
14 ment of the Labor;

15 “(C) the Inspector General of the Depart-
16 ment of Health and Human Services;

17 “(D) the Inspector General of the Small
18 Business Administration;

19 “(E) the Inspector General of the Depart-
20 ment of the Treasury;

21 “(F) the Inspector General of the Depart-
22 ment of Transportation;

23 “(G) the Treasury Inspector General for
24 Tax Administration;

1 nority leader of the Senate, and the minor-
2 ity leader of the House of Representatives;

3 “(ii) have demonstrated ability in ac-
4 counting, auditing, financial analysis, law,
5 management analysis, public administra-
6 tion, or investigations;

7 “(iii) have experience managing over-
8 sight of large organizations and expendi-
9 tures; and

10 “(iv) be full-time employees of the
11 Committee.

12 “(C) DUTIES.—The Executive Director of
13 the Committee shall—

14 “(i) report directly to the Chair-
15 person;

16 “(ii) appoint staff of the Committee,
17 subject to the approval of the Chairperson,
18 consistent with this subsection;

19 “(iii) supervise and coordinate Com-
20 mittee functions and staff; and

21 “(iv) perform any other duties as-
22 signed to the Executive Director by the
23 Committee.

1 “(6) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL COMPENSA-
2 TION.—Members of the Committee may not receive
3 additional compensation for services performed.

4 “(7) DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall
6 conduct oversight of covered funds and support
7 Inspectors General in the oversight of covered
8 funds in order to—

9 “(i) detect and prevent fraud, waste,
10 abuse, and mismanagement; and

11 “(ii) identify major risks that cut
12 across programs and agency boundaries.

13 “(B) GENERAL FUNCTIONS.—The Com-
14 mittee, in coordination with relevant Inspectors
15 General, may—

16 “(i) provide support to, and collabo-
17 rate with, relevant Inspectors General in
18 conducting investigations, audits, and re-
19 views relating to covered funds, including
20 through—

21 “(I) data analytics;

22 “(II) the sharing of data, tools,
23 and services;

1 “(III) the development and en-
2 hancement of data practices, analysis,
3 and visualization; and

4 “(IV) any other appropriate
5 means as determined by the Com-
6 mittee;

7 “(ii) provide analytical products to
8 agencies, in coordination with Inspectors
9 General, to promote program integrity,
10 prevent improper payments, and facilitate
11 verification efforts to ensure proper ex-
12 penditure and utilization of covered funds;

13 “(iii) review the economy, efficiency,
14 and effectiveness in the administration of,
15 and the detection of fraud, waste, abuse,
16 and mismanagement in, programs and op-
17 erations using covered funds;

18 “(iv) review whether there are appro-
19 priate mechanisms for interagency collabo-
20 ration relating to the oversight of covered
21 funds, including coordinating and collabo-
22 rating to the extent practicable with State
23 and local government entities; and

24 “(v) expeditiously report to the Attor-
25 ney General any instance in which the

1 Committee has reasonable grounds to be-
2 lieve there has been a violation of Federal
3 criminal law.

4 “(C) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.—The Com-
5 mittee may provide investigative support to
6 prosecutive and enforcement authorities to pro-
7 tect program integrity and prevent, detect, and
8 prosecute fraud of covered funds.

9 “(D) REPORTING.—

10 “(i) ALERTS.—The Committee shall
11 submit to the President and Congress, in-
12 cluding the appropriate congressional com-
13 mittees, management alerts on potential
14 management, risk, and funding problems
15 that require immediate attention.

16 “(ii) REPORTS AND UPDATES.—The
17 Committee shall submit to Congress such
18 other reports or provide such periodic up-
19 dates on the work of the Committee as the
20 Committee considers appropriate on the
21 use of covered funds.

22 “(iii) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—The
23 Committee shall submit biennial reports
24 to the President and Congress, including
25 the appropriate congressional committees,

1 and may submit additional reports as ap-
2 propriate summarizing the findings of the
3 Committee and any recommended changes
4 to the scope of covered funds.

5 “(iv) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—All re-
6 ports submitted under this subparagraph
7 shall be made publicly available and posted
8 on the website established under paragraph
9 (16).

10 “(v) REDACTIONS.—Any portion of a
11 report submitted under this paragraph
12 may be redacted when made publicly avail-
13 able, if that portion would disclose infor-
14 mation that is not subject to disclosure
15 under sections 552 and 552a of this title,
16 or is otherwise prohibited from disclosure
17 by law.

18 “(E) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Committee
20 shall make recommendations to agencies
21 on measures to prevent or address fraud,
22 waste, abuse and mismanagement, and to
23 mitigate risks that cut across programs
24 and agency boundaries, relating to covered
25 funds.

1 (1) through (4) of subsection (a) and sub-
2 sections (h), (j), and (k) of section 406;

3 “(iii) be considered to be conducting
4 civil or criminal law enforcement activity
5 for the purposes of section 552a(b)(7) of
6 this title; and

7 “(iv) for the purposes of sections 552
8 and 552a of this title, be considered to be
9 a component which performs as its prin-
10 cipal function an activity pertaining to the
11 enforcement of criminal laws, and its
12 records may constitute investigatory mate-
13 rial compiled for law enforcement pur-
14 poses.

15 “(B) LIMITATION ON SUBPOENA AUTHOR-
16 ITY.—When carrying out subpoena authority
17 under section 406(a)(4) of this title, the fol-
18 lowing limitations shall apply to the Committee:

19 “(i) Any subpoena issued under this
20 subsection shall be signed by the Chair-
21 person of the Committee, and this power is
22 non-delegable.

23 “(ii) On a quarterly basis, the Com-
24 mittee shall notify the Committee on
25 Homeland Security and Governmental Af-

1 fairs of the Senate and the Committee on
2 Oversight and Accountability of the House
3 of Representatives of any subpoenas issued
4 during the preceding quarter.

5 “(iii) The authority to issue a sub-
6 poena under this subsection shall termi-
7 nate on the date that is 5 years after the
8 date of enactment of this subsection.

9 “(9) REFUSAL OF INFORMATION OR ASSIST-
10 ANCE.— Whenever information or assistance re-
11 quested by the Committee or an Inspector General
12 is unreasonably refused or not provided, the Com-
13 mittee shall immediately report the circumstances to
14 the appropriate congressional committees.

15 “(10) USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.—The
16 Committee shall leverage existing information tech-
17 nology resources within the Council, such as over-
18 sight.gov and those developed by the Pandemic Re-
19 sponse Accountability Committee established under
20 section 15010 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-
21 136; 135 Stat. 533), to carry out the duties of the
22 Committee.

23 “(11) CONTRACTS.—The Committee may enter
24 into contracts to enable the Committee to discharge
25 its duties, including contracts and other arrange-

1 ments for audits, studies, analyses, and other serv-
2 ices with public agencies and with private persons,
3 and make such payments as may be necessary to
4 carry out the duties of the Committee.

5 “(12) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Committee may
6 establish subcommittees to facilitate the ability of
7 the Committee to discharge its duties.

8 “(13) TRANSFER OF FUNDS, ASSETS, AND OB-
9 LIGATIONS.—

10 “(A) FUNDS.— The Committee may trans-
11 fer funds appropriated to the Committee—

12 “(i) for expenses to support adminis-
13 trative support services and audits, re-
14 views, or other activities related to over-
15 sight by the Committee of covered funds to
16 any Office of the Inspector General or the
17 General Services Administration; and

18 “(ii) to reimburse for services pro-
19 vided by the Council.

20 “(B) ASSETS AND OBLIGATIONS.—

21 “(i) ASSETS DEFINED.—In this sub-
22 paragraph, the term ‘assets’ includes con-
23 tracts, agreements, facilities, property,
24 data, records, unobligated or unexpended

1 balances of appropriations, and other
2 funds or resources (other than personnel).

3 “(ii) TRANSFER.—Upon the effective
4 date of this subsection, the assets and obli-
5 gations held by or available in connection
6 with the Pandemic Response Account-
7 ability Committee established under 15010
8 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136;
9 135 Stat. 540) shall be transferred to the
10 Committee.

11 “(14) ADDITIONAL STAFF.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
13 graph (B), the Committee may exercise the au-
14 thorities of subsections (b) through (i) of sec-
15 tion 3161 of this title (without regard to sub-
16 section (a) of that section) to meet temporary
17 or urgent needs of the Committee under this
18 subsection, as certified by the Chairperson to
19 the appropriate congressional committees that
20 such temporary or urgent needs exist, as if the
21 Committee were a temporary organization.

22 “(B) HEAD OF ORGANIZATION.—For pur-
23 poses of exercising the authorities described in
24 subparagraph (A), the term ‘Chairperson’ shall

1 be substituted for the term 'head of a tem-
2 porary organization'.

3 "(C) CONSULTATION.—In exercising the
4 authorities described in subparagraph (A), the
5 Chairperson shall consult with members of the
6 Committee.

7 "(D) ADDITIONAL DETAILEES.—In addi-
8 tion to the authority provided by section
9 3161(c) of this title, upon the request of an In-
10 spector General, the Committee may detail, on
11 a nonreimbursable basis, any personnel of the
12 Committee to that Inspector General to assist
13 in carrying out any audit, review, or investiga-
14 tion pertaining to the oversight of covered
15 funds.

16 "(E) LIMITATIONS.—In exercising the em-
17 ployment authorities under section 3161(b) of
18 this title, as provided under subparagraph (A)
19 of this paragraph—

20 "(i) section 3161(b)(2) of this title
21 (relating to periods of appointments) shall
22 not apply; and

23 "(ii) no period of appointment may
24 exceed the date on which the Committee
25 terminates.

1 “(F) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—A person
2 employed by the Committee shall acquire com-
3 petitive status and conditional tenure for ap-
4 pointment to any position in the competitive
5 service for which the employee possesses the re-
6 quired qualifications upon the completion of 2
7 years of continuous service as an employee
8 under this subsection.

9 “(G) ANNUITANTS.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Committee
11 may employ annuitants covered by section
12 9902(g) of this title for purposes of the
13 oversight of covered funds.

14 “(ii) TREATMENT OF ANNUITANTS.—
15 The employment of annuitants under this
16 paragraph shall be subject to the provi-
17 sions of section 9902(g) of this title, as if
18 the Committee was the Department of De-
19 fense.

20 “(15) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

21 “(A) REQUESTS.—Upon request of the
22 Committee for information or assistance from
23 any agency or other entity of the Federal Gov-
24 ernment, the head of such entity shall, insofar
25 as is practicable and not in contravention of

1 any existing law, and consistent with section
2 406 of this title, furnish such information or as-
3 sistance to the Committee, or an authorized
4 designee, including an Inspector General des-
5 igned by the Chairperson.

6 “(B) INSPECTORS GENERAL.—Any Inspec-
7 tor General responsible for conducting oversight
8 related to covered funds may, consistent with
9 the duties, responsibilities, policies, and proce-
10 dures of the Inspector General, provide infor-
11 mation requested by the Committee or an In-
12 spector General on the Committee relating to
13 the responsibilities of the Committee.

14 “(16) WEBSITE.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30
16 days after the date of enactment of this sub-
17 section, the Committee shall establish and
18 maintain a user-friendly, public-facing
19 website—

20 “(i) to foster greater accountability
21 and transparency in the use of covered
22 funds, which shall have a uniform resource
23 locator that is descriptive and memorable;
24 and

1 “(ii) that shall be a portal or gateway
2 to key information relating to the oversight
3 of covered funds and provide connections
4 to other Government websites with related
5 information.

6 “(17) COORDINATION.—The Committee shall
7 coordinate its oversight activities with the Comp-
8 troller General of the United States and State audi-
9 tors.

10 “(18) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
11 this subsection shall be construed to—

12 “(A) affect the independent authority of an
13 Inspector General to determine whether to con-
14 duct an audit or investigation of covered funds;
15 or

16 “(B) require the Council or any Inspector
17 General to provide funding to support the ac-
18 tivities of the Committee.

19 “(19) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
20 For the purposes of carrying out the mission of the
21 Committee under this subsection, there are author-
22 ized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
23 essary to carry out the duties and functions of the
24 Committee.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act and the amend-
2 ments made by this Act shall take effect on September
3 30, 2025.